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To The Editor of the "English Journal":

Just what was Mr. John McClure's objective in the article "The High Priest and the Heretic" published in the *English Journal* of October? Was his article intended merely as an exhibition of dynamics? Or does he imagine that, like shrapnel shot without a target, he has proved composition may be lively without unity and coherence? I confess that I cannot decide.

But there are among his observations some statements that present a challenge to my belief as to what the purpose of teaching composition in the high school really is not. The purpose is not to turn out Waltons, Burtons, and Lambs, thank the Lord! Nor is the English teacher deluded by the thought that the average youngster has attained the wit of Chesterton, the wisdom of Thackeray, the humor of Lamb, the antiquarian lore of Burton, or the vision of Shakespeare. We do not feel that we are trying to furnish such an original style to a pupil, or develop it in him, that when he is forty he may write something immortal.

We aim, in the high school, merely to lay a foundation for a clear, simple style. We are perfectly aware of the fact that, for the average high-school student, we are aiming at uniformity of expression. If Professor Duplewiddy's book is a type which assists the vast majority of pupils to obtain a style that is readily apprehended by that majority, by all means adopt it! Think what effect it would have upon the appearance of the *English Journal* alone, if we recommended the adoption of such abortive sentence structure as shocks the expectant reader of Mr. McClure's article! And what effect upon our nerves! To quote Mr. McClure, himself: "Pure explosions! We *must* have form!!"

Yours very truly,

GLEN OWENS

BALTIMORE CITY COLLEGE
BALTIMORE, NOV. 1, 1918

EXAMINATION PAPERS

These two papers were written in forty-five-minute, unannounced tests in the Milwaukee Junior High School. They were sent to the *Journal* by Miss Irma L. Wallace.

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I. What is sacrifice?

Sacrifice, nowadays, seems to mean simply the giving up of luxuries or unnecessaries. But that is not all it means. America does not know what sacrifice is. France and England are beginning to understand it, but it has